

the CARRIER



ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Volume XXXIX - Issue 1 - January 1992

Editor: Ken Desloover, N8KHS

Distribution: George Jones, KI6YK

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- Art Mayoff, VE2AQV, on the Road to Extra (See Page 5)

A Message from the Editor

This month the *Carrier* was "rushed" to press because of the potential early arrival of MDARC's newest and youngest member, (Casey Kenneth or Paige Elizabeth) Desloover. Look for Pete's message next month...

73's Ken N8KHS

Blessed with New Members

by Richard Shappee, Vice President

The membership of our club is at an all-time high. This is the result of our Ham Classes, as well as the recent changes in the FCC rules and the no-code license. The result of all this can be a permanent growth in our club, and a big factor in its future, or, if we are not careful, it can be a short-lived phenomenon and have little to do with our future. What can make the difference? YOU CAN!! How? By a really simple thing that you can do.

When a person joins an organization, for quite a time he may not know other members, and may not become involved in the activities of the club. If the new member feels welcome, and if he finds that the club is doing things that he is interested in, he will likely become involved, and will stay with the club. On the other hand, if he does not make friends with other members within a fairly short time, he will lose interest and drift away. He loses, the club loses, and maybe our hobby of Amateur Radio loses. What can you do about this? Plenty!

First of all, greet any visitor or member at our meetings that you do not recognize. Ask who he is, whether he has been to other meetings, and find out what his interests are. By doing so, you will make our organization friendlier. Not only that, but we are supposed to be communicators...So communicate with someone other than just the group you know. Welcome the others and get them involved.

One last thing - if you know of a program that you would like to have put on, or if there is something that you think that would make our club better, please let me know. Reach me on Packet (W4SHQJ @ KI6WE) or call me at 682-1644. Or, bend my ear at a meeting. Let's work together to strengthen our club and Ham Radio and make our new members feel welcome!

Happy New Year - 1992

Antenna Ordinances Cause for Ham Radio Concern

by Paul W. Girard, KC6TZU

Are we bringing them on ourselves? Or are cities being "copy-cats?"

These are questions that hams need to address as a spate of apparently anti-ham antenna ordinances are being proposed in Contra Costa County and elsewhere. (In CoCo County, Orinda and Walnut Creek are actively trying to regulate amateur radio antennas.)

In today's "pro environment" climate, people are very much aware of wonderful vistas and skylines that can be marred by "unfriendly" and "unnatural" hardware. Unfortunately, some of the "hardware" is radio related, some is the result of the proliferation of satellite dishes, some results from power and phone lines, and still other "stuff" that catches the eye is the result of society's advancement.

The big concern in cities is that the safety of citizens be protected. Cities can't afford insurance losses, and if a tower comes down because it was -- or was not -- approved, by a city, they get sued, as does the owner.

The "remedy" is to not allow antennas, or to regulate them to the extent that they are impractical to erect. Some of the "fixes" proposed by cities are the result of "bad legislation" passed by cities elsewhere. Some "fixes" are possibly illegal. But some laws are "on the books".

Walnut Creek is currently working very closely with an MDARC group that has proposed regulations that are "workable" and "sensible" for both the city and the hams.

In Orinda, a similar approach is being taken that could produce a working relationship between the city and the radio community.

"Most importantly, hams should work with their amateur radio clubs who can and will assist in 'problems' with local governments," says Dick Schulze, AA6DL, a retired attorney.

"The 'key to success' on so-called 'anti-ham' ordinances is being sensible in approaches. Being a ham is to be proud of the state of the art, but, if you are not sensible about the approach, local government is sure to remind that ham comes from pigs."

"What it boils down to is being tidy in all approaches with the city before the permit process, and well after. Our hobby has saved a

QST To Run Fire Story in February

QST, the ARRL's official journal of amateur radio will run "a major spread" on the Oakland Hills "firestorm" in its February issue.

The articles were written under contract to QST by MDARC club member **Paul W. Girard, KC6TZU**. Much of the photography will also be his.

Girard said the four stories making up the "spread" total nearly 4,000 words, including one feature on **Jim House, KA6IVF**, the only ham injured as a result of the fire. Girard is a professional writer, photographer, and disturber.

QST's December issue features an article on club member **Dwayne Eskridge, W6LKE**, who is retired from the FBI.

At a later date, QST is planning another article by Girard on the infamous "police cross-bander" originally featured in an article in the August *Carrier*.

From the ARRL Pacific Division

ARRL has filed two petitions for rulemaking with the FCC concerning the 222-225 MHz band. RM 7868 seeks expanded privileges for Novices. This would allow Novices the use of the entire 222-225 MHz band. As the rules now exist, Novices are restricted to 222.1-223.91 MHz. RM 7869 would create a subband from 222.0-222.150 for weak signal work. Your January QST will have complete details.

Dick Crooke, KB6JEC, Former Contra Costa County EC, Silent Key

It was reported in the East Bay Amateur Radio Club newsletter that Dick Crooke, KB6JEC, passed away December 24. Before his recent move to San Anselmo, Dick served as EC for Contra Costa County.

lot of bacon over the years, but it's important that we remember the relationship between hams, bacon and pigs -- or piglets," Schulze admonishes.

If you have a problem with an anti-ham radio ordinance, call Club President Pete Tormey, N6QGN before the "boiling fat turns to fire". And, Tormey reminds, "Do not attempt to circumvent ordinances. It just makes a tough fire impossible to extinguish -- for all of us." Tormey will assign knowledgeable experts to work with you and the city on the problem.

MDARC General Meeting Minutes

Date: December 20, 1991 Time: 7 PM

The MDARC Christmas Party started promptly at 7 PM as was promised. The dinner was very good. The caterers did a very fine job and George Roush is to be complimented.

After dinner, President Pete listed the club accomplishments during the past year, listing programs, auction, classes and PacifiCon in October of 1992.

ARRL Pacific Division Section Manager Bob Vallio was introduced. He said he was pleased to be present at our Christmas function.

Tim Barrett gave a plug for PacifiCon 92 and suggested that family members rent a room at the hotel during the convention.

President Pete introduced the new Officers and Board. The new Treasurer, Stan Christian, was sworn in to his new office.

The Ham of the Year Award was given to Paul Girard, and the Kilroy Key was presented to V.P. Richard Shappee by President Pete. Wayne Merryman, Chairman of Public Service, presented awards to George Jones and Joe Gregory. Jay Caldis presented an award to Keith Lattin for his fine work in keeping the repeaters maintained. Dianne Brooks received an award from Pete for her work with the radio classes. Tim Barrett was presented an award by Dick Brown for "Bright Idea".

Santa Claus appeared ringing sleigh bells and carrying a large red sack. Children present then had a session with Santa. After Santa departed with a HO HO HO, the drawing for prizes, conducted by Lauren Styles, for non-hams and hams began. Bob Vallio drew the first ticket.

This was the best Christmas Party yet. There were only a very few empty chairs at the tables. 131 people present.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter W. Ebbett, Jr., Secty.

**Renew ARRL Membership
Through MDARC**

MDARC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 23, 1991 Time: 7:30 PM

The meeting was a combination Board Meeting and get together with wives. Present were Pete and Debbie Tormey, Host and Hostess Richard and Joyce Shappee, Walt and Dorothy Ebbett, Bert Dawson, Stan Christian, George and Lillian Jones, Skip and Lisa Slates and Paul Girard.

The next Board Meeting is at the home of President Pete on January 21st.

It was voted to have the same caterer next year for the Christmas Party.

Club insurance again was discussed. It was recommended that our liability be doubled to \$1 million. No action taken.

There were 5 Silent Keys this year that have been reported.

Jeff Jones, KC6SKV has volunteered to run the radio classes next year.

Membership now stands at 434.

There is to be a DXpedition to the Farallon Islands soon. More info on this to come later.

Dick Brown, Jay Caldis, and Stan Christian were appointed to the Audit Committee. Current bank balance is \$4,187.

No further business, meeting was adjourned and social hour held.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter W. Ebbett Jr., Secretary

Rocky Ridge Meeting Schedule

The schedule of Rocky Ridge Repeater Group meetings for 1992 is:

January 15
March 18
May 20
July 15
September 16
November 18 - Elections

All meetings held at:

Contra Costa Fire College
Treat Boulevard at Oak Grove
Concord

Repeater Group Ready to "Begin Year with a Bang"

"Big things are on the horizon for the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group in 1992," says chairman Paul Girard, KC6TZU.

Girard said that a number of significant changes in the operation of the RRRG are being planned for 1992. He would not elaborate, saying "It wouldn't be fair to let the cat out of the bag before the members hear it first."

He said the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group will hold its first meeting of 1992 at 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 15 at the Contra Costa Fire College. The Fire College is on the north side of Treat Blvd., west of Oak Grove Road in Concord. Talk-in for the repeater group is always on 147.06/+ (100 Hz), 224.78 (77 Hz), or 441.325/+ (100 Hz).

The chairman said that renewal notices for RRRG would be mailed in mid-January and will become delinquent on March 15. This year the RRRG is encouraging early renewal by sending stamped envelopes to all members.

RRRG Treasurer Norma Davis, N6EJZ, said the \$25 annual RRRG dues are significantly lower than other repeater groups. She said that renewal scofflaws risk having to pay the RRRG initiation fee (\$10) a second time; risk losing auto-slot numbers, and may need to be re-elected to membership. "Besides that, it makes my job harder," she said.

The RRRG is currently planning some major ATV changes, and changes in controllers that will improve the overall W6CX system, said Mike Burke, KB6RMT, RRRG's Technical Chairman.

Hams interested in joining the RRRG must be current members of MDARC, and must be nominated and sponsored by a RRRG member in good standing. Applicants must produce a copy of their current FCC "ticket" and must personally attend a RRRG meeting. Initiation fee is \$10 and annual dues are \$25.

RRRG Dues Due March 15

Letter to the Editor

Greetings from Bob Johnson, KC6WTL

Dear Fellow Club Members,

Please forgive me for not writing sooner, to inform you that I have moved out of the fine Bay area. I am now located approximately 30 miles east of Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Valley community of Covina, which I was born and raised in.

I sure miss the Bay Area and all of the fine people that I met during my four year stay. I particularly miss being involved in our club's meetings and activities. I have become involved in one general amateur club which comes close to MDARC, one small club that does a lot of community service, and one group that gets together on a 440 machine for general fun and conversation. I also am enjoying some local 10 meter activity when I have a chance, and, of course, I always listen for a Bay Area contact.

A word to Northern Californians in general: **DON'T CHANGE!** I can safely say that there was never a time up north that I announced my call over the air that I didn't get a friendly response, an invitation to join the group, or at bare minimum "heard you out there, just wanted to say hi!". It took me several months down here to find a group that would acknowledge a visitor.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the members for being my associates, and invite any one that has to travel down in this area to look me up on one of the following frequencies: 147.765- W6QFK RPT (San Gabriel Valley Radio Club), and Condor, 28,383.0 10 meters. If I'm not on the air, the folks on QFK will assist you with any information, directions and that type of thing you may need, and, of course, they also engage in general time passing conversation.

Wishing all of you a very happy holiday and a happy new year!!!

Bob Johnson - KC6WTL
521 W. Front Street
Covina, CA 91722

Extra Class in About an Hour (and a Little Editorializing)

by Art Mayoff, ex-VE2AQV

A little while ago Art Mayoff did something very few seasoned Amateurs have the opportunity to do. Art, who has been licensed since 1961 with his Canadian callsign, VE2AQV, decided to trade in his lifelong ticket for a U. S. call. As many MDARC members know, Art, a former "Ham of the Year", started and taught the club's ham radio classes in the 70's and 80's. Many of those members have successfully worked their way along the path towards an Extra license, but Art has never seen the inside of a U. S. test. Well, with the aid of the ARRL study guides and the W5YI software, he did that special something.

He took all five theory exams and the 20 WPM CW test at one sitting, and passed them all...in a little over an hour. When asked what it was like, he said, "Well, firstly, there was no pressure to take them, so I believe I felt more comfortable and at ease than most. Secondly, I have a son in college who showed me how to use one of the newfangled scientific calculators (non-programmable). The need for one is a

must if you want to really understand the concepts behind some of the formulas." Art continued, "The software from W5YI was absolutely terrific. I wholeheartedly recommend that everyone (Art's emphasis) use a computer and appropriate software as part of their preparation for any Amateur exam. It made it a breeze." Which test was most difficult? "Of all the exams, the Advanced is the most difficult. With over 500 questions in the question pool and more 'esoteric' formulas than all the other levels added up, it was quite a mental challenge. The Extra Class exam," he said, "was substantially easier than I anticipated."

With a puzzled look on his face, he said, "I can understand the need for a lot of the questions in the question pool, but in my 30 years as a Ham and the last 17 years as a "Professional Ham" working in the Amateur Radio retail industry, there are a lot of subjects covered that are close to useless and many subjects that aren't even discussed that should be." When asked what he meant by that, he responded by saying, "Look, I get to see and hear just about all the questions any one person ever gets in Ham

THE BASE STATION

Your Contra Costa Ham Radio Headquarters

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Bearcat/Uniden Scanners
Butternut Antennas

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Extra Class in About an Hour (from Page 5)

Radio. Working behind the counter in a Ham Radio store, I help there guys and gals get up and running." He continues, "They're spending so much time studying questions that are not fully realistic. But, they're studying what they need to pass the test. First, let me tell you where it isn't. It isn't how to figure out the inductive reactance of a coil or the number of seconds it takes a capacitor to discharge across a 4352.6 ohm resistor."

"What they need to be studying are the more practical concepts of our hobby. Like what you ask? How about...What's the right way to actually create an 80 meter dipole? And, I don't mean the formula for one. I mean how to do it, period! What's the right way to tie a guy wire to an anchor? How do you get all this packet gear up and running for the first time? How does it all hook together and how do you log on the first time? What are some anticipated interfacing problems and how are they solved? Sure, it might be in the instruction book, but when you're new, those things seem like their written in Greek. What is a 'PL' tone? Why won't this two meter radio bring up the repeater without it? There was not a single question on any of the five tests about subaudibles. What is the right way to solder on a PL 259? How should the coax be dressed back properly? Don't laugh," he said, "probably one-third of new Hams don't know how and probably have never even used a soldering gun." He stated, "This is only the tip of the iceberg. There are dozens of quite interesting and useful subjects that are totally ignored."

"I've just studied over 1900 questions in all five question pools, and with my tenure as a Ham, I feel over 400 of them are of questionable value and they should be substituted with questions of a more practical and useful nature."

"With the great influx of 'no-coders' and 'Tech-plusers' (and their subsequent upgrades), let's spend a little less time deciding whether the current is leading or lagging the voltage and put greater emphasis on the practical end. Let's get these neophytes on the air and up and running. Let's help them be prepared for actually using one of these complex transceivers we get at our favorite store or flea market."

He ended by saying, "Those of you who have spent countless hours studying hundreds of questions and have asked yourselves 'Why do I need to know this weird esoteric theory?' voice your opinion to the ARRL, and ask them to forward your comments to the Question Pool review committee. If they get enough input, I believe they will respond. The question pools are being reviewed now, with changes to be implemented in about 18 months."

The *Carrier* has received word that Director and former Education Chairman Larry Gansz's father has passed away. MDARC sends its condolences to Larry and his family.

If you haven't paid your 1992 MDARC dues by now, your membership is delinquent. This will be the last *Carrier* you will receive if you do not renew your membership. So get you membership dues mailed as soon as possible and certainly before January 31st. We'd hate to loose you!

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

by George Jones, KI6YK

MDARC is proud to welcome the following **new club members**:

ANDRESEN, Clarence; SWL; 1100 Brown Ave.,
Lafayette, CA 94549; (510)283-3393(h)

BOYD, Elizabeth H. (Elly); KB6NEU, Novice
P.O. Box 2701, Martinez, CA 94553

HARRISON, Ray; WB6SPT, Advanced
9553 Thornton Rd., Stockton, CA 95219
(209)951-4452(h)

HIRT, Edwin R. (Ed); WE6U, Extra; 5 Rydal Ct.,
Orinda, CA; (510)376-5306(h)

KARAVIDAS, Tony; KC6UDI, Technician
30 Glenhill Ct., Danville, CA 94526
(510)831-9968(h), (510)820-7551(w)

NEUMAN, Caroline; N6XFE, Technician
4 Santa Lucia, Orinda, CA 94563
(510)254-5892(h)

WOOLF, Phyllis D.; SWL; 4032 Cowell Rd.
Concord, CA 94518; (510)-689-3067(h)

Congratulations to the following on their upgrade
and/or new call (some of these may not be recent,
but we just learned of them):

Dale Andresen: Novice, KD6DFP

Donald Bowtell: Extra, AB6FF

Joel Butler: Advanced, KM6KS

Walt Entelman: General

Sue Fry: Advanced, KK6WK

Dennis Fuller: Technician

Robert Johnson: Technician, KC6WTL

Paul Jones: General

Gary Keane: Technician, KD6DEZ

Art Mayoff: Extra, AB6HB

Mark Niles: Technician

Orville Owen: Extra

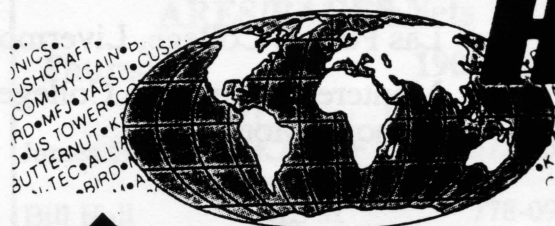
James Ploss: Technician

James Sheley: Extra

Don Swartwood: Technician

Richard Tuller: Extra

Bob Zirkelbach: General

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MDARC Annual Awards

Ham of the Year - Paul Girard

This is awarded to the radio amateur who contributes the most to the amateur radio community by providing public service, promoting goodwill in and out of the amateur radio community, and supporting the activities of the club. Contributions to RACES, MARS, ARRL, NTS, radio classes, and other activities are included for eligibility. Any club member nominated to the awards chairman will be considered. The award will only be given to one person.

Kilroy Key - Richard Shappee

This is awarded to the club member who contributes the most to the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club and its members. Radio amateurs who support the club by helping with meetings, auctions, classes, field day, public relations, and a host of other activities for the club are eligible. The award will only be given to one person.

Public Service Award - George Jones and Joe Gregory

This is awarded to the club member who contributes the most to amateur radio by assisting in public service. This can be awarded for service above and beyond the call of duty, or by persistent service to our community through participation in public service events. This award includes events not directly sponsored by MDARC, but may be sponsored individually or by other organizations. This award is given annually to as many people as the board feels is appropriate.

Calendar of Events

1st Sunday	Livermore Swap Meet	Las Positas College, Livermore
January 18, 1992	NPSARC Winterfest	Monterey Peninsula College Armory, Monterey
April 10-12, 1992	International DX Convention	Visalia, CA
May 1-3, 1992	San Joaquin Valley Section Convention and 50th Fresno Hamfest	Fresno, CA
August 20-23, 1992	ARRL National Convention	Los Angeles, CA
October 10, 1992	Siera Hamfest and Computer Faire	Minden, NV
October 16-18, 1992	PACIFICON '92	Concord, CA

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
Our Savior Lutheran Church
 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

The Rocky Ridge Repeater Group
Contra Costa Fire College
 Treat Boulevard West of Oak Grove, Concord

Next Meeting:
January 17 - 8 PM
Biological Control of Insects

Next Meeting:
January 15 - 8:00 PM
Interested persons are welcome

Club Officers

Pete Tormey	President N6QGN	680-0920
Richard Shappee	Vice President WA5HQJ	682-1644
Walter Ebbett	Secretary KB6QIB	837-2204
Stan Christian	Treasurer WU6P	672-0330
Skip Slates	Emergency Coordinator KC6JEM	944-9749
Dick Brown	Directors KT6X	676-9048
Larry Gansz	KB2GV	356-2411

RRRG Officers

Paul Girard	Chairman KC6TZU	689-2346
Mike Burke	Technical Chairman KB6RMT	682-7296

Rock Ridge Repeaters

147.06/+ (100 Hz)	224.78/- (77 Hz)	441.325/+ (100 Hz)
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Rocky Ridge Repeater Group Nets

Thursday	Voice Net	
Net Control	1930 Hours	147.06/+
	Jay Caldis	KT6Y
Thursday	ATV Net	
Net Control	2000 Hours (after voice net)	
Alternate	Mike Scott	N6GOZ
	Tim Barrett	WD9BIV

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursdays 1900 Hours

Central County 145.68/S	
James House	KA6IVF 372-0345
East County 146.535/S	
Bill Hall	KB9M 778-0977
South County 146.355/+	
George Jones	KI6YK 837-9316
West County 145.11/-	
Robert Hughes	N6SPY 527-7048

QSY to 147.735/- at 1920 Hours
Meeting of all ARES/RACES Nets

Contra Costa County Emergency Services HF Net
First Thursday following first Wednesday
2000 Hours 3895 Khz
 Hank Berriman, W6ZHY, AEC

Sheriff's Uniformed Reserve
for information call:
 Freda Lucido N6PWT 228-3609

Happy New Year - 1992

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The Carrier

A newsletter from the
Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
 P. O. Box 23222
 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523



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